

Remarks Amendment A**General****Drawings**

On page two and three of the office action (OA) the drawings of the application are objected to. All views have now been corrected to provide unique figure numbers.

Specification

The specification has been amended to reflect the corrected figure numbering.

Further, para 6, page 4 of the application is amended to better define circumferential saw-tooth shaped ribs and scalloped saw-toothed shaped ribs.

Claims**Claim 1.**

The OA rejects claim 1 under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's prior art Figure 1 in view of US patent 1369913, Brunhoff.

Brunhoff discloses a sump for collecting the oil that spills from one pipe when it is unthreaded from another pipe by surrounding the joint with a sealed chamber with a spout for directing the spilled fluid away from the joint. No provision for gripping the pipe or pipes is provided. In fact, gripping the pipes would defeat the features Brunhoff describes. The purpose of the Brunhoff toggle clamps is to compress (strain) the soft rubber seals to prevent oil

Remarks Amendment A (continued)**Claim 1. (continued)**

leakage from the sump, but still allow the pipes to be unthreaded (Brunhoff, pg 1, ln 101-108), involving both rotational motion and axial motion with respect to the sump. This application is from an entirely different field and is nonanalogous art. Brunhoff describes an oil sump, and not a coupling for conduit.

Brunhoff describes toggles clamps. Prior art Figure 1 describes gripping teeth. Neither Brunhoff nor Figure 1, nor any of the other cited prior art, suggest (express or implied) that they be combined in the manner of the present invention.

The use of toggle clamps is recited in Brunhoff, but not in anyway related to the present invention. Numerous prior art examples of toggle clamps, used to secure pipes and conduits with couplings, are noted in the present application. All are different than the present invention as described in the application specification.

Soft plastic conduits have been installed in trenches for decades. Many schemes for joining these conduits have been implemented by those skilled in the art. It is, and has been, highly desirable to produce a coupling that does not require tools to apply, is easy to apply, does not have loose parts that can be lost during installation, can be reused, is inexpensive to manufacture, provides positive resistance to the separation of the conduit, and provides an adequate seal. Over these decades of need, those skilled in the art have not pursued the coupling structure of this invention. It is remarkable that the coupling of this invention can cause the significant gripping penetration by the simple use of toggle clamps. This fact along with the structural features of this invention have been overlooked by those skilled in the art.

Remarks Amendment A (continued)**Claim 1. (continued)**

It is the contention of the applicant that all of these features and advantages are not taught by the combination of the shown prior art and Brunhoff, and would not be, and has not been, obvious to someone skilled in the art.

Claim 1 has been revised to include "gripping means" to the two half shells to better define the structure.

Claim 2.

OA states that Applicant's prior art Figure 1 discloses two half shells containing a plurality of gripping teeth.

Claim 2 has been revised to reflect the change in Claim 1. It is assumed that if Claim 1 is allowed, amended Claim 2 will be allowed.

Claim 3.

OA states that Applicant's prior art Figure 1 discloses the plurality of gripping teeth being saw-toothed shaped circumferential ribs.

It is assumed that if Claim 1 is allowed, Claim 3 will be allowed.

Claim 4.

OA states that Applicant's prior art Figure 1 discloses the plurality of gripping teeth being saw-toothed shaped scallops. **This is not the case.** Figure 1 shows only saw-toothed shaped circumferential ribs. In any case, it is assumed that if Claim 1 is allowed, Claim 4 will be allowed.

Remarks Amendment A (continued).**Claim 5.**

OA states that Applicant's prior art Figure 1 discloses the two half shells containing circumferential ribs that compress the seal into contact with the conduits. **This is not the case.** Figure 1 shows no half shell ribs that compress the seal into contact with the conduits. In any case, it is assumed that if Claim 1 is allowed, Claim 5 will be allowed.

Claim 6.

OA states that Applicant's prior art Figure 1 discloses the two half shells being made of material significantly harder than the soft plastic conduits.

It is assumed that if Claim 1 is allowed, Claim 6 will be allowed.

Claim 7.

OA states that Applicant's prior art figure 1 discloses the two half shells being made of relatively hard plastic material.

It is assumed that if Claim 1 is allowed, Claim 7 will be allowed.

Remarks Amendment A (continued)

Conclusion:

For the above reasons, applicant submits that the claims, as modified and corrected, show that the invention is novel and unobvious and is distinguished over prior art. The applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such action.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Myrl J. Saarem". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Myrl J. Saarem

Phone and Fax 775-882-4075

E-mail msaarem@charter.net